



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

ACB questions KTR for 8 hours in second round
Officials instruct him to remain available, hint at another summons
Ordered to submit all cell phones by June 18

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar
Hyderabad: Eight hours of interrogation. Sixty questions. Only partial answers. Entire session recorded on video. A half-hour lunch break. Six officers. A tense grilling. Authorities ordered KTR to hand over his cell phones. In the end, they said: “You’ll be called again, and you must appear without fail.” This was the second round of questioning that former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) underwent at the ACB office. As soon as he arrived, sources say KTR attempted to divert officials’ attention with speculative questions like “Will I be arrested?” and “Should I be ready?” However, the officers pressed on with their questions. Reportedly, KTR tried to evade several questions as they came in succession, but the investigators remained persistent. The ACB interrogation in the Formula E race case wrapped up after an 8-hour session. KTR, accompanied by his lawyer, reached the ACB office at Banjara Hills at 10 AM. Top officials including DGP Vijay Kumar, Director Tarun Joshi, DSP Majid Khan, and Ritiraj were present for questioning. In this case, KTR is A1, former Municipal Administration Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar is A2, and HMDA Executive Engineer B.L.N. Reddy is also accused. All three were previously questioned. This time, KTR was called again. The questioning was reportedly based on statements by Arvind Kumar and evidence collected by the ACB. Cross-questioning was done using documentary evidence obtained during the investigation. Sources reveal that KTR was asked under what capacity he issued fund release orders when the Model Code of Conduct was in effect. The ACB officers used the statements of Arvind Kumar and B.L.N. Reddy to question him, as well as the testimony of Dan Kishore. They probed into MoUs signed with contractors, and suspicious cash transfers. Why was ₹44 crore transferred without cabinet approval or Finance Department clearance? Why did Greenko withdraw from the Formula E race? The ACB also reportedly asked about the BRS party’s use of electoral bonds. Out of 60 questions asked, officials say KTR answered only a few and dodged many. The entire session was video recorded, and if needed, the footage may be presented in the High Court. Since the responses didn’t satisfy the officials, another round of questioning is expected. KTR reportedly did not bring his phone along. Officials ordered him to submit the phone he is currently using, as well as those used during the Formula E event, by June 18.



Second Round Ends... Third Episode Still Pending

Call me 30 times, I’ll come 30 times

Before heading to the ACB office, KTR reached the BRS party office, met with leaders, and then proceeded for questioning. While addressing the media, he remarked, “Not three times—call me thirty times, and I’ll still appear.” He claimed this was all due to political vendetta by Revanth Reddy, and asserted he is not afraid of inquiries or arrests. After the interrogation, he returned to the BRS office and reiterated he wasn’t afraid of going to jail—he’d treat it as a rest. He alleged that since Revanth Reddy had been to jail, he now wants KTR jailed as well. KTR said no new questions were asked—just a repeat of earlier ones—and claimed that the government seems determined to trap him and send him to prison under the pretense of investigation. **Party Office Locked, Leaders Arrested** Following KTR’s summons, a large number of party leaders gathered at the party office, raising slogans and attempting to go to the ACB office in solidarity. Police took several leaders into custody and, unable to control the crowd, locked the party office to



prevent anyone from entering. **Tight Security at ACB Office** At the ACB office, strict restrictions were enforced. Barricades were erected, and a 50-meter restriction zone was declared. Even media personnel were not allowed into the vicinity. Only vehicles belonging to KTR and his lawyer were permitted entry. **Harish Rao Meets Legal Team** While KTR was being questioned, Harish Rao met with legal experts including R.S. Praveen, to prepare for the possibility of further summons or arrest. In summary, the second round of questioning is over. But the third episode is yet to come.

Kavitha’s Silence Raises Questions About Her Political Future

- Rebellion turned retreat: What’s behind the BRS MLC’s silence?
- Did determination bow to her father’s stubbornness?
- Kavitha’s silence: a strategy or result of pressure?



TPN | Srikanth Gurram
Hyderabad: MLC K. Kavitha’s sudden political silence has triggered intense discussion across the Telangana political landscape. Once a prominent voice of dissent within the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), her retreat has raised serious questions about her future in the party and the direction of the BRS itself. Kavitha, daughter of BRS supremo K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), had recently taken a strong stance by openly criticizing the leaders surrounding her father. She went on record saying “KCR is God, but there are demons around him,” expressing deep dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs within the party. Her strong words positioned her as a symbol of rebellion within the party. However, her abrupt and prolonged silence since then is being viewed as both surprising and strategic. This unexpected silence—especially at a time when several senior leaders are refraining from public statements—is fueling speculation. Political observers are asking: is Kavitha’s silence a deliberate strategy? Or has she bowed under internal pressure? Did her determination crumble before her father’s stubborn leadership? Her decision to step back from criticism has also led to questions about whether she is doing so out of fear of legal complications or due to calculated political planning. There is also speculation that party insiders may have acted to erode her confidence and isolate her within the BRS structure. Previously seen as a strong and independent force within the party, Kavitha’s retreat has left a visible void. Her silence, after having loudly questioned the direction of the party, has transformed her from a vocal rebel into a quiet observer. Some believe she is maintaining silence out of respect for her father, while others suspect that the investigations and legal scrutiny she is facing may be weighing heavily on her decisions. Whatever the reasons may be, Kavitha’s current silence has become a subject of widespread debate, leaving many wondering: what lies ahead for her within the BRS—and what will be her next political move?

Ponguleti’s Silence Sparks Speculation in T-Congress

- Once close to CM Revanth, now distanced from Congress affairs
- Removed as Nalgonda in-charge after new PCC chief took charge
- Is internal rivalry brewing within the Telangana Congress?

TPN | Suraj
Hyderabad: The name Ponguleti has long carried weight in Telangana politics, especially within the Congress party. Once a strong force in Khammam district, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy was seen as a pillar of support for



the party, particularly after the Congress formed the government. His support extended not just politically but reportedly also finan-

cially, with whispers suggesting he even operated as a “shadow” to CM Revanth Reddy during the early days of the administration. Under his leadership and influence, the Congress secured an unexpected victory in the Khammam district and made inroads in the neighboring Nalgonda district. His role in the party’s success in these regions was considered crucial, and his coordination with Revanth Reddy—especially when the latter was PCC chief—was widely acknowledged. However, ever since Mahesh Kumar Goud took over as the new PCC chief, Ponguleti’s political graph within the party appears to have taken a dip.

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TPCC chief Slams Ponguleti Over Reservation Remarks

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Revanth Reddy Cabinet’s Boost for Farmers

- Rythu Bandu funds to be deposited from today
- CM directs ministers to intensify publicity of welfare schemes

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
In a significant decision aimed at supporting the farming community, the Telangana state cabinet led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has approved the release of farmers’ insurance funds. These funds will begin to be deposited directly into farmers’



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Census from October 2026, to Include Caste-Wise Data

- Union Home Ministry issues Gazette Notification
- Census to be conducted digitally in two phases
- Citizens can self-register via special portal and app
- Caste-wise data to be collected for the first time

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Union Home Ministry has officially issued a gazette notification for the commencement of the 16th nationwide Census, setting the stage for India’s first fully digital enumeration. The Centre aims to complete the



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Ponguleti's Silence Sparks Speculation in T-Congress

Despite being a loyalist who even advised Revanth on cabinet expansion, Ponguleti was removed as the in-charge of Nalgonda district. That move came just as Mahesh Kumar made sensational remarks declaring that he could be the future BC Chief Minister—a statement that created a stir within party circles.

This shift in power dynamics and the sidelining of Ponguleti has fueled talk of an emerging class divide within the Congress. The speculation intensified with the perception that the influence of Reddy leaders is slowly diminishing in the party's internal structure. It also raises a critical question: is all this unfolding without

the knowledge of CM Revanth, or is he deliberately choosing to remain silent?

The bigger question now is about Ponguleti's next move. Will he remain within the Congress and fight from within, or consider his options outside the party? His sudden silence, especially after being so active in shaping the Congress's path to power, has certainly not gone unnoticed.

As murmurs grow louder about internal rifts and changing equations, political observers and party workers alike are watching closely to see if this signals the beginning of deeper divisions within the Telangana Congress.

Revanth Reddy Cabinet's Boost for Farmers

accounts starting today, bringing relief to thousands of farmers across the state.

The decision was taken during the cabinet meeting held earlier in the day. The Chief Minister also directed all ministers to actively promote the welfare schemes being implemented by the government to ensure their benefits reach every corner of the state.

CM Revanth Reddy also reviewed the preparedness for the upcoming local body elections and instructed in-charge ministers to coordinate closely with district-level leadership for effective planning and execution.

On another front, the Chief Minister issued key directives concerning the state's medical education infrastructure. In the wake of the National Medical Council's (NMC) dissatisfaction over inadequate facilities in 26 of the state's medical colleges, the CM conducted a high-level review and ordered immediate steps for improvement.

The NMC has summoned the Secretary of the Health Department and the Director of Medical Education (DME) to Delhi on June 18 to explain the deficiencies. Principals of the affected

colleges are also required to join the meeting virtually.

Taking these developments seriously, CM Revanth Reddy ordered the formation of a dedicated committee to conduct a ground-level assessment of all 34 medical colleges in the state and submit a detailed report. He assured that all deficiencies will be rectified within three years and committed to releasing the necessary funds for this purpose.

He also instructed officials to prepare comprehensive details of the funds and permissions needed from the central government. Revanth Reddy said he would personally take up the matter with Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda to expedite clearances.

Highlighting an international opportunity, the CM directed that Japanese language be introduced as an optional subject in nursing colleges. "There is a high demand for Indian nurses in Japan. Teaching Japanese will enhance employability for our nursing students," he said. To ensure continuous monitoring, the Chief Minister ordered that a review meeting on medical and educational affairs be held every third week of each month.

Census from October 2026, to Include Caste-Wise Data

entire process in two phases by March 1, 2027. Notably, this will also be the first Census since Independence to include caste-wise data collection.

According to the notification released on Monday, the first phase of the Census — House Listing Operation (HLO) — will begin from the midnight of October 1, 2026, in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The rest of the country will begin enumeration from the midnight of March 1, 2027. In this large-scale effort, around 34 lakh field-level enumerators and supervisors will be deployed across India, assisted by an additional 1.34 lakh staff members. They will use tablet devices to collect data digitally — a major departure from the traditional pen-and-paper model. To improve accessibility and transparency, citizens will also be given an option to self-register their details through dedicated online portals and mobile applications.

The first phase of the Census will gather information on household assets, housing conditions, and available amenities. The second phase — the Population Enumeration (PE) — will collect demographic, socio-economic, and cultural data about individuals. Crucially, this phase will also include caste information, making it the first caste-wise enumeration since Independence under the national Census framework.

The Home Ministry emphasized that robust digital security protocols will be in place to protect the sensitive information being gathered. All stages of data collection, transmission, and storage will be executed with high-level cybersecurity standards, ensuring confidentiality and integrity. After a 15-year delay — the last Census was held in 2011 — this upcoming enumeration is expected to provide vital insights for policy formulation, development planning, and welfare distribution across the country.

TPCC Chief Mahesh Goud to Depose in Phone Tapping Case

- **TPCC chief summoned to Jubilee Hills ACP office**
- **Allegedly victim of phone tapping during 2023 elections**
- **Police term his testimony as crucial to the investigation**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The investigation into the high-profile phone tapping case has reached a key turning point, with Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud set to record his statement before the police. He is expected to appear at the Jubilee Hills ACP office at 11 a.m. tomorrow in compliance with a police request.

Mahesh Goud, who served as TPCC working president during the 2023 Telangana



Assembly elections, is said to be among the political figures whose phone was allegedly tapped by the previous government. The tapping reportedly occurred at the peak of the election campaign, raising serious concerns about abuse of power and violation of privacy.

As the current PCC president, Mahesh Goud's statement is seen as a crucial

piece in the puzzle. According to sources, he has assured full cooperation to the police and is prepared to provide all relevant details concerning the alleged surveillance.

The phone tapping allegations have rocked Telangana politics in recent months, with several suspects already questioned by the authorities. Police have also recorded statements from multiple alleged victims, and Mahesh Goud's testimony is expected to further strengthen the ongoing probe.

Political observers believe this development could open up new

leads in the case, especially if Goud confirms any direct or circumstantial evidence of illegal surveillance during the 2023 elections. The incident has already triggered heated debates in the state's political circles, with the Congress targeting the previous regime over alleged misuse of state machinery.

Rythu Bharosa Amount Will Be Credited Within 9 Days

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu announced that within the next nine days, the complete Rythu Bharosa assistance will be credited directly into the accounts of farmers cultivating land across Telangana. Addressing the Rythu Nestham Sabha held at the Agriculture University in Rajendranagar on Monday, Bhatti hailed this as a historic moment for the state's farming community. He stated that every acre under cultivation—totalling 1.49 crore acres—would receive Rs. 12,000, irrespective of the number of acres a farmer owns. "This is being done on the sole command of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. No previous government has taken such a bold and pro-farmer step," Bhatti said. He further added that even the landless poor engaged in agriculture will receive Rs. 12,000 annually per family under the Indiramma Aatmiya Bharosa Scheme. Despite tight financial conditions, Bhatti said the Congress government is determined to stand by farmers and is mobilizing Rs. 70,000 crore every year—totaling Rs. 3.5 lakh crore over five years—for agriculture and farmer welfare. "This government is the true savior of farmers," he declared. Criticizing the previous TRS regime, Bhatti said they failed to compensate farmers for crop losses and neglected crop insurance altogether. "They roamed the state seeking votes with fake promises. Today they're making noise like evil spirits. Don't allow them into



your villages—chase them away," he told the crowd.

He noted that the current government has already waived Rs. 21,000 crore in farm loans, a feat unmatched by any other state in India. "Without stopping any previous scheme, we are adding new ones. In just a few months, we've deposited Rs. 13,088 crore under Rythu Bharosa and Rs. 1,199 crore as paddy bonus," he said.

To ensure uninterrupted farming operations, the Finance Department has also released Rs. 16,691 crore to supply free electricity to 29 lakh agricultural pump sets. Additionally, Rs. 11,000 crore has been spent on speeding up irrigation projects.

Bhatti emphasized that the Congress party's legacy is deeply rooted in agriculture. "Congress means farmers, and farmers mean Congress. This government will always stay committed to the welfare of the farming community," he concluded.

Telangana Signs MoUs With Top NGOs To Upgrade Govt Schools



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana Education Department has entered into significant partnerships with six renowned non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to upgrade the quality of education in government schools. The aim is to introduce cutting-edge technology and learning tools to students free of cost.

The Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's residence in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. The event was attended by several senior officials from the education department and representatives from the participating NGOs.

The NGOs partnering with the state include the One Step Foundation led by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, Prajwala Foundation led by anti-trafficking activist Dr. Sunita Krishnan, Physics Wala headed by educational entrepreneur Alak Pandey, globally renowned Khan Academy, Pajama Foundation run by Shoaib Dar, and Educate Girls led by Safina Hussain.

These organizations will bring their expertise to enhance digital learning, provide online resources, improve classroom teaching methods, and ensure personalized education support to schoolchildren across the state.

Present at the MoU signing were Government Advisor K. Kesava Rao, Education Secretary Yogitharana, Special Secretaries Haritha and Ajith Reddy, Director of School Education Narasimha Reddy, and Naveen, who is set to take charge as the next Director of School Education.

Officials noted that this initiative is a part of the Telangana government's broader goal to revolutionize public education and bridge the learning gap through private-public collaboration.

Kishan Reddy inspects Gandhi Hospital amid rising COVID cases

TPN Correspondent | Secunderabad

In response to a rise in COVID-19 cases across the country, Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy paid a visit to Gandhi Hospital in Secunderabad, Telangana's key nodal centre for pandemic care. The visit was carried out on the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to assess the preparedness of major medical institutions amid renewed concerns.

During the inspection, Kishan Reddy reviewed the oxygen plant established at Gandhi Hospital during the previous COVID waves. He also visited several departments and personally interacted with patients to understand their problems and experiences with the medical services.

The Union Minister held a detailed discussion with Gandhi Hospital Superintendent Dr. Rajkumari regarding the



state of medical infrastructure and current treatment facilities being provided to patients. In light of recent complaints regarding poor drinking water and sanitation issues at the hospital, Kishan Reddy stressed the importance of providing all basic facilities to patients without delay.

He urged hospital authorities to take swift and effective measures to address

issues related to sanitation, drainage, and clean drinking water supply. He also emphasized the importance of ensuring the full functionality of critical diagnostic equipment such as CT scan and MRI machines.

When informed by Dr. Rajkumari about a shortage of medical staff, the minister assured that he would bring the issue to the attention of the state government and pursue action. He also encouraged the hospital's medical personnel to remain vigilant and fully prepared to handle any health emergencies in the coming days.

Kishan Reddy reiterated the Centre's commitment to supporting state institutions in strengthening healthcare delivery during this period of rising infections and ensured all possible cooperation in addressing the hospital's immediate needs.

Kishan Reddy Slams Cong Over Local Poll Delay

BJP to contest all local body seats independently
Demands 42% BC quota in Telangana elections
Caste census by Mar 2027; phone tapping case must face CBI probe

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Union Minister and BJP Telangana State President G. Kishan Reddy held a media conference at the BJP state office, sharply criticizing the Congress government in Telangana for delaying local body elections. He also outlined key national initiatives, including the digital caste census and BJP's strategy for empowering rural youth. Kishan Reddy stated that the Central Government has officially notified the caste census to be held alongside the

general population census — the first such exercise since independence. The census, scheduled for completion by March 1, 2027, will be fully digital, involving 34 lakh enumerators and 1.34 lakh supervisory staff. He added that a secure app is under development to ensure the safety of personal data. The BJP leader highlighted that this comprehensive census will be the first to include a detailed BC enumeration, which is expected to lay the foundation for new welfare and development policies.

Turning to Telangana, Kishan Reddy expressed concern over the continued delay in local body elections, including Panchayati Raj and Municipal polls. He demanded the elections be held as per schedule with 42% BC reservation, as previously promised by the Congress. He criticized the government's inefficiency, pointing out the lack of basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, and street lighting in villages. He emphasized, "There is no administrative structure without Sarpanches. The Congress



government is weakening democracy by delaying elections." Kishan Reddy confirmed that BJP will contest all local body seats independently, with a focus on encouraging rural youth, aligning with PM Narendra Modi's vision to promote 1,000 youth per parliamentary constituency. He also questioned the state government's silence on its earlier demand for a CBI probe into the BRS regime's phone tapping scandal. "Now, even the phones of BJP leaders and our state office staff were tapped. Why no

CBI inquiry now?" he asked. He reiterated that BJP had filed a petition in the High Court seeking a CBI investigation and hoped the court would deliver justice. On the Banakacharla project, he clarified that the Central Government has not made any decision yet, and a full review will follow based on the Pre-Feasibility Report submitted by Andhra Pradesh. He said the Central Water Commission would examine inter-state water regulations before any final move.

TPCC chief Slams Ponguleti Over Reservation Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
TPCC President and Minister Mahesh Kumar Goud has expressed serious displeasure over fellow minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's remarks regarding reservations in local body elections. Mahesh strongly objected to Ponguleti's public statement, stating that such sensitive issues should be discussed internally within the party or the cabinet before being disclosed to the media. Mahesh Kumar Goud, who also holds a cabinet position in the Telangana government, questioned the propriety of one minister commenting on matters pertaining to another minister's department. He emphasized that it was improper for Ponguleti to speak on reservations without collective discussion. "It is not right to go directly to the media on such issues without even consulting the cabinet," Mahesh said. He further noted that matters currently under judicial consideration should be handled with extreme caution. "Ministers should refrain from making statements on topics that fall under the jurisdiction of the courts. Public comments on such issues can mislead people and weaken the government's stance," he cautioned. Mahesh Kumar Goud stressed the importance of discipline among ministers and suggested that ministers should stick to matters within their respective departments. "Making statements without full knowledge or without discussion can spark unnecessary controversies and embarrass the government," he said, urging ministers to avoid overstepping boundaries in public forums. He concluded by reminding his cabinet colleagues that collective responsibility and cabinet discipline are fundamental to governance, and that all sensitive matters must be discussed internally before being made public.

High Court Rejects Kaushik Reddy's Plea in Threat Case

BRS MLA accused of demanding ₹50 lakh from granite trader

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy faced a legal setback as the Telangana High Court dismissed his petition seeking to quash a criminal case filed against him. The court ruled that the case, which involves serious allegations, must proceed as per legal procedures. The case stems from a complaint lodged by Umadevi, wife of a granite trader named Manoj, who operates a quarry in Vangapalli village of Kamalapuram mandal. In her complaint to the Subedari police, she alleged that MLA Kaushik Reddy had demanded ₹50 lakhs from her husband and issued threats in connection with the quarry operations. Following the complaint, police registered a case and began an investigation. In response, Kaushik Reddy approached the High Court seeking dismissal of the case, calling the allegations baseless and politically motivated. However, the court, after hearing the arguments, refused to entertain the plea and made it clear that the case would not be dismissed at this stage. This ruling comes as a blow to the MLA, who was hoping for immediate relief from the legal proceedings. The High Court's decision effectively allows the investigation to continue, keeping the case against Kaushik Reddy active. Political observers note that the incident could have broader implications for the BRS leader, particularly at a time when legal accountability is under increased public scrutiny.



TPN Correspondent | Rajanna-Sircilla
SC, ST, and Minority Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman stated that the Congress Party is the true address for social justice and pledged that the poor will have a "big seat" in the governance under the Revanth Reddy-led government. He made these comments after offering prayers at the Vemulawada Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple on Sunday, a customary visit be-

fore starting any major program. Speaking to the media, Laxman highlighted his long political association with the Congress Party, dating back to his student days with NSUI in 1984. He lauded Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his commitment to social justice through the Bharat Jodo Yatra. "Rahul Gandhi's yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir changed the political landscape of the nation. Despite several threats and obstacles, he walked with the people, laying the foundation for a socially just India," he said. Laxman expressed confidence that under the guidance of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and KC Venugopal—who played a key role in granting statehood to Telangana—the

state is progressing swiftly under CM Revanth Reddy's leadership. "The BRS government pushed Telangana into a financial mess, despite having a surplus budget. But today, our government is paying off interest regularly and implementing schemes without any disruption," he said. Enumerating the achievements of the Congress government within 18 months, Laxman listed loan waivers for farmers, ration card distribution, free RTC bus travel for women, and the creation of over 59,000 jobs. He asked, "Which other state has implemented so many people-centric programs in such a short span?" He reiterated that Telangana has become a role model for social justice with the passage of the

42% BC reservation bill in the Assembly on August 1. "We believe this law will be replicated across the country in the future," he added. Laxman said that the elevation of leaders like Gaddam Vivek and Vakiti Srihari from humble backgrounds to ministerial and legislative positions was a reflection of Congress's commitment to the weaker sections. Calling it an unexpected fortune, he attributed this development to the blessings of the people and divine grace. With the support of CM Revanth Reddy and top Congress leadership, Laxman vowed to resolve key issues in SC, ST, and Minority departments and drive people-focused administration forward in Telangana.

Ponguleti Slams KTR's ACB Drama

Congress won't interfere in Formula E case, says Revenue Minister

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Telangana State Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has strongly criticized BRS Working President and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) over his theatrics surrounding the ACB inquiry into the alleged corruption in the Formula E car racing event. Addressing the media, Ponguleti said KTR's conduct mirrors that of former CM KCR during the Kaleshwaram project inquiry. "Is it necessary for KTR to make such a spectacle while attending an inquiry?" Ponguleti questioned, stating that the government has no intention

of politicizing the probe or targeting individuals unfairly. He emphasized that the Congress government will not interfere in the ACB's investigation and will act solely based on the agency's findings. Reiterating the government's stand, he said, "We believe in transparency. Whatever the ACB concludes in its report, the government will act accordingly. This is not about vendetta; it's about accountability." On the subject of the upcoming Panchayat elections, Ponguleti declared the Congress government's firm commitment to implementing increased BC res-

ervations. "We are determined to ensure justice to BCs in local body polls. The Congress party will surely sweep the panchayat elections with the support of the people," he asserted. The minister also addressed the ongoing rollout of the Indiramma housing scheme. He urged the public not to be disheartened if they didn't benefit in the first phase. "We will provide Indiramma houses to all eligible poor in stages. Despite financial constraints, we've already fulfilled many promises and are working to implement the rest soon," Ponguleti added. The minister's statements signal



the government's effort to strike a balance between pushing forward welfare measures and defending itself from opposition criticism while maintaining a no-nonsense stance on corruption investigations.

Chandrababu, Jr. NTR Will Not Come Again... Hand Over Responsibilities to Lokesh: Owaisi

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool
MIM party chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi has stirred a fresh political debate in Andhra Pradesh with his sensational remarks targeting Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and his son, Minister Nara Lokesh. Speaking at a public meeting held in Adoni, Kurnool district, on Sunday night, Owaisi made direct comments urging Chandrababu to retire from politics and officially transfer leadership responsibilities to Lokesh. "Chandrababu Naidu, I'm telling you... You're destroying Lokesh's political future. After you, your son will take over, right? Jr. NTR will not come, right? Then why are you confusing Lokesh?" Owaisi questioned in a bold tone during his address. He took a dig at the internal dynamics of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), especially highlighting the absence of Jr. NTR in party affairs and raising doubts over Nara Lokesh's leadership abilities. Owaisi recalled Chandrababu's long political



innings, stating, "You served as Chief Minister for 9 years in united Andhra Pradesh and

for 5 years in the newly formed state. That's enough. Now it's time to take care of your son and give him full responsibility." The MIM chief also criticized Chandrababu Naidu's alliance with the BJP, questioning the TDP's ideological clarity and consistency. His comments come at a time when the TDP-BJP-Jana Sena alliance is riding high after their massive victory in the recently held Andhra Pradesh elections. Owaisi's remarks have triggered heated discussions in political circles and among party cadres, especially TDP supporters, as he openly touched on speculations around Jr. NTR's possible political comeback, a subject that has often been debated in Andhra politics but never officially confirmed. The TDP leadership has yet to respond officially to Owaisi's comments. However, political analysts believe that these remarks are likely aimed at creating confusion within the TDP camp and undermining Nara Lokesh's growing presence in state politics.

Telangana ready to become ‘Skill Capital of the Globe’

***Minister seeks Union support for Young India Skill University**
***80% students from skill programs already employed, says Sridhar Babu**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana Minister for IT and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, has called on the Centre to extend its full support towards the development of the Young India Skill University, an ambitious initiative of the Telangana government aimed at addressing the skill gap among youth. He made this appeal during the inauguration of the “Mega Job/Skill & Loan Mela” held at PG Law College in Basheerbagh. The event, organised jointly by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Government of India) and the Department of Employment &

Training (Government of Telangana), was inaugurated in the presence of Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Jayant Chaudhary. Addressing the gathering, Sridhar Babu said that Telangana is ready to partner with the Centre in large-scale skilling initiatives and reiterated the state’s goal of becoming the “Skill Capital of the Globe.” “Our youth are Telangana’s greatest strength, but many still lack the industry-relevant skills required today,” the Minister stated. “Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, we are working to close the gap be-

tween academic education and real-world requirements.” The Minister said that Telangana is building skilling frameworks by collaborating with industry leaders and domain experts, leading to employment success for thousands. “Nearly 80% of students trained through our Skill University programs have secured jobs. That is the strength of industry-aligned learning,” he noted. He urged Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary to visit the Young India Skill University and witness the efforts firsthand. “We are committed to inclusive governance. We want to work hand-in-hand with the Centre to make India’s youth globally



competitive,” he said. Sridhar Babu also motivated students and job seekers present at the mela. “You have immense potential. Learn,

adapt, and grow with changing times. Every failure brings you closer to success,” he said, stressing the need for resilience in career building.



The event was attended by MP R. Krishnayya, MLC Anji Reddy, TGMDCI Chairman Anil Kumar, former MLC Kapilavai Dilip Kumar, and other public representatives and officials.

MLAs File PIL on ₹10,000 Cr Land Encroachment in Khajaguda

High Court issues notices to officials, next hearing in two weeks

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Four MLAs—Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Rajesh Reddy, Anirudh Reddy, and Murali Nayak—have filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Telangana High Court alleging large-scale encroachment of valuable government land in Khajaguda, Serilingampalli mandal. A hearing on the matter was conducted on Monday, where senior advocate Rikudu Prabhakar presented detailed arguments on behalf of the petitioners. The petition claims that 27.18 acres of government land under survey numbers 119 and 122 were illegally encroached upon by altering the survey classification to “Poramboke” (wasteland). Advocate Prabhakar argued that this land is valued at approximately ₹10,000 crore and alleged that permissions for building construction were granted despite its disputed nature. He stated that the Rangareddy District Collector issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) in 2023, following which the GHMC gave clearance for massive construction activity. Currently, eight high-rise towers with 47 floors each are under construction at the site. The petitioners claim these buildings are situated within the Full Tank Level (FTL) limits of Khajaguda Cheruvu, a violation of environmental and land norms.



Additionally, the PIL raises concerns over a ready-mix concrete plant operating within 150 meters of a private school, which the advocate claimed is severely polluting the environment and affecting the health and safety of students in the vicinity. Advocate Prabhakar urged the court to instruct the government to reclaim the encroached land and stop the ongoing construction activities. After hearing the arguments, the Telangana High Court issued notices to the State Government, the Revenue Chief Secretary, Rangareddy Collector, GHMC, HMDA, and private firm Hydra, which is allegedly involved in the construction. The matter has been adjourned for further hearing in two weeks.

Monsoon Sanitation Special Drive to Curb Disease Outbreaks

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner R.V. Karnan on Monday emphasized the importance of the ongoing monsoon sanitation special drive, aimed at preventing the outbreak of seasonal diseases. As part of this initiative, the Commissioner inspected sanitation activities near the Nallakunta Fever Hospital, one of the key areas vulnerable during the rainy season. Speaking during the inspection, Commissioner Karnan urged citizens and local political representatives to actively cooperate with GHMC to ensure the success of the drive. “To effectively control the spread of diseases during the monsoon, public support is as essential as administrative planning,” he noted. He directed GHMC officials to strategically deploy sanitation workers across different areas in each ward rather than concentrating them in a single location. This, he explained, would help maximize coverage and efficiency, ensuring that all areas are adequately serviced. GHMC is taking proactive steps under this monsoon drive by cleaning clogged drains, clearing garbage, removing stagnant water, and conducting fogging operations in vulnerable zones. The initiative aims to minimize mosquito breeding and prevent outbreaks of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malar-

ia, and chikungunya. Additional Commissioner Raghu Prasad, Zonal Commissioner Ravi Kiran, Assistant Medical Health Officer Hemalatha, and Deputy Executive Engineer Praveen Kumar accompa-



nied the Commissioner during the inspection and reviewed the sanitation arrangements. With the city entering a critical monsoon phase, GHMC is also encouraging citizens to avoid water stagnation near their homes and to report sanitation issues via the GHMC helpline or mobile app. The GHMC’s efforts are part of a broader public health initiative to keep Hyderabad clean, safe, and disease-free during the monsoon season.

CH Priyanka Takes Charge as Special Commissioner of Information Department

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
CH Priyanka officially assumed charge as the Special Commissioner of the Information and Public Relations Department on Monday. The state government issued transfer orders appointing her to the role, following the transfer of Dr. Harish, who previously held the post, as the Managing Director of Telangana Genco. Prior to this appointment, CH Priyanka served as the Deputy Secretary in the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department. She has now taken over the responsibilities of Special Commissioner, a role that includes overseeing the state’s information dissemination, public relations initiatives, and media outreach programs. On Monday morning, Dr. Harish handed over the responsibilities of Special Secretary of the Government’s Information and Public Relations Department, Special Commissioner, and Managing Director of the Telangana Film Development Corporation at the Secretariat. Officials and staff from the Information and Public Relations Department, Telangana Film Development Corporation, and the Telangana Media Academy extended their congratulations to CH Priyanka as she stepped into her new role. At the same time, they bid farewell to Dr. Harish, recognizing his contributions to the department. Soon after assuming office, CH Priyanka conducted a review meeting with senior officials and department staff. She was briefed on the department’s ongoing programs, media initiatives, and performance metrics. Her immediate focus is expected to be on enhancing the department’s outreach efforts and ensuring effective communication of government policies and welfare schemes to the public. CH Priyanka’s appointment is seen as a key administrative move by the state government aimed at strengthening the state’s public communication machinery.



Excise FIRs to Go Online from August

NIC collaborates with Excise Department to develop digital system

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Prohibition and Excise Enforcement Director Shanwaz Qasim (IPS) announced that all 139 excise stations across Telangana will shift to online FIR registration starting from August. The move aims to modernize excise operations in line with the police department’s digital processes. A high-level meeting was held at the Excise Bhavan on Monday with technical experts from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and senior excise officials. NIC engineers, along with Excise Joint Commissioner Syed Yasin Qureshi and enforcement in-charges, participated in the session to review and refine the system’s framework. Director Qasim emphasized the need for

necessary changes in the NIC’s initial design and said the final version of the system should be ready by July. A conclusive meeting to finalize updates will be held on June 25, after incorporating suggestions from the state’s Deputy and Assistant Commissioners. The digital transformation will bring transparency and efficiency to excise case handling and streamline crime pattern tracking across the department. The director also stressed the importance of readiness and inter-departmental feedback to ensure a smooth rollout. NIC Director G. Srikanth, Joint Director Ch. Srinivasa Rao, NE Force Assistant Commissioner Pranavi, Team Leaders Nandiyala Anji Reddy and Tula Srinivasa Rao,



and CIs Chandrashekhar Goud, Jagannathan, and N. Srinivasulu were among those who participated in the meeting.

42 Medical Shops Booked for Violations in Veterinary Drug Sales

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The Drugs Control Administration (DCA) of Telangana has detected serious violations in 42 medical shops during a special drive conducted on June 16, 2025, targeting veterinary and pet clinics and attached medical shops across the GHMC area and neighboring districts. The raids were carried out in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, and Sangareddy districts with a specific focus on verifying the sale and storage of veterinary drugs. The inspections uncovered numerous discrepancies, prompting the department to issue Show Cause Notices to the violators and initiate strict departmental action. According to DCA officials, several medical shops were found violating key norms under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

These included the sale of prescription veterinary drugs without valid prescriptions, dispensing medicines without issuing bills, and stocking expired drugs along with saleable stock. In many cases, medical shops were operating without a registered pharmacist and failing to maintain proper sales and purchase records. **Notable violations included:**

- Sale of veterinary drugs without prescription from a certified veterinarian.
- Absence of billing and failure to maintain sales/purchase registers.
- Dispensing prescription medicines without a qualified pharmacist.
- Storage of expired drugs with usable stock. Mixing veterinary and human drugs in the same storage areas.

The DCA stressed that improper use and

sale of veterinary drugs pose a serious risk, especially with regard to the growing global threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Officials highlighted that the indiscriminate use of antibiotics in food-producing animals like cattle, poultry, and fish can accelerate AMR, which has critical public health implications. The department reiterated its appeal to medical shops to strictly follow regulatory guidelines to ensure the quality, safety, and efficacy of veterinary medicines. They also urged the public to report any illegal drug-related activities or violations in veterinary medical shops and clinics. Complaints can be reported via the DCA’s toll-free number 1800-599-6969, operational from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm on all working days.

CM Praises Collector for Opting Govt Hospital for Surgery

Pamela Satpathi undergoes successful respiratory surgery in Karimnagar

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has lauded Karimnagar District Collector Pamela Satpathi for setting a strong example by choosing government medical services for her treatment. He congratulated her via social media after she successfully underwent surgery for a respiratory ailment at the Karimnagar government hospital. Collector Pamela Satpathi had been suffering from respiratory issues for a while and was admitted to the local government hospital on Sunday. A team of expert doctors from the ENT de-

partment performed endoscopic nasal and septoplasty surgeries. The procedures were reported to be successful, and her condition is now stable. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), CM Revanth Reddy wrote, "Government hospitals have modern facilities, experienced doctors and service-minded staff. All that is needed now is the trust that quality medical services will be provided in government hospitals. My congratulations to Karimnagar District Collector Pamela Satpathi, who has instilled that trust by undergoing surgery at a government hospital." Her decision to opt for treatment

at a government hospital has been widely appreciated by the public and within administrative circles. Many see it as a positive step towards building public confidence in the healthcare system, which often faces skepticism over quality and accessibility. Observers say such actions by high-ranking officials send a strong message about the improvements in government medical infrastructure. Collector Pamela Satpathi's decision is now being viewed as a symbolic endorsement of state-run healthcare services, potentially encouraging more citizens to trust and utilize them.



Etala Rajender visits Saidonigadda Thanda

MP promises drainage, lighting, and irrigation solutions for the village

TPN Correspondent | Medchal
Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender visited Saidonigadda Thanda in Ellampet Municipality and assured the residents that he would work towards resolving the long-standing issues plaguing the village. The Thanda, located just a short distance from Medchal, has been suffering from multiple civic and agricultural problems, the MP noted during his visit. Etala began his visit by planting a sapling in the village and offered special prayers at the local Munidev and Jagadamba temples. Speaking to the residents, he highlighted the hardships faced by farmers due to untreated drainage water flowing into their fields, particularly during the paddy harvesting season. He pointed out the absence of basic infrastructure like street lights and proper drainage systems in Saidonigadda Thanda, calling the situation unacceptable. "Though this Thanda is close to



the Medchal area, the problems here have been ignored for years. Now that you have elected me as MP, it is my duty and responsibility to ensure these issues are resolved," he assured the villagers. The visit also saw the participation of key BJP leaders from the region. Medchal constituency BJP candidate Sudarshan Reddy, former Medchal Rural District BJP president Vikram Reddy, Medchal Assembly BJP convener Amaram Mohan Reddy, Medchal Municipal BJP president Shailaja Harinath, and Ellampet Municipal BJP president Sri-sailam accompanied the MP during the

program. Joint Samirpet Mandal BJP president Chandrashekhar Yadav, former village sarpanch Sujatha Kishan Nayak, and local leaders Nareddy Nanda Reddy, Krishna Goud, Haima Reddy, Jagan Goud, among others, also took part in the visit. Etala Rajender concluded by reiterating his commitment to improving the quality of life in Saidonigadda Thanda and promised that he would follow up on all pending issues with the concerned departments.

Free Sand Distribution for Indiramma Houses: MLA Kavvampally

TPN | Srikrishna Gurram
Manakondur: MLA Dr. Kavvampally Sathanarayana announced that the government has begun issuing tokens to supply free sand for the construction of Indiramma houses. The initiative is aimed at expediting housing construction for the poor and ensuring that beneficiaries face no delays due to material shortages. Speaking at a program held at the Mandal Parishad office, the MLA distributed CM Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques worth ₹12,93,000 to 60 eligible beneficiaries from Manakondur mandal as part of the 15th phase of the financial assistance drive. He noted that the funds are now being sanctioned and disbursed faster than ever before under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Dr. Kavvampally encouraged beneficiaries to make use of the free sand tokens



promptly and commence construction without delay. "The government is committed to ensuring timely support for the poor. Sand is being made available free of cost, and tokens are being issued to ease the process," he said. He advised the public to utilize the CM Relief Fund scheme efficiently and re-

minded them that such opportunities can significantly help improve their living conditions. Mandal Development Officer Varalakshmi, Mandal Congress President Nandagiri Ravindra Chari, Market Committee Chairman Marri Odelu Yadav, and local party leaders Tallapalli Sampath Goud, Muddasani Srinivas Reddy, Remidi Srinivasa Reddy, Bandi Mallesham Goud, Burra Srikanth Goud and others participated in the event, expressing their support for the initiative. The MLA reiterated the government's focus on grassroots development and housing for the underprivileged, stating that the Indiramma housing program will continue to be a priority in the coming months.

Inspiring Move by Young Leaders

150 students in Allipur & Gorlanubai get free books
Kavali Satish, Kiran Kumar continue their annual effort

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Believing that education is the greatest charity, two young leaders, Kavali Satish and Kiran Kumar, have continued their heartfelt mission of supporting students in rural areas. On Sunday, they distributed free notebooks to around 150 school students in Allipur and Gorlanubai villages. Each student received two notebooks as part of the initiative, which both Satish and Kiran Kumar have been conducting annually for several years. Their aim is to support students from economically weaker backgrounds by easing the burden of basic educational needs. Speaking on the occasion, Kavali Satish said, "We believe every child deserves the right tools to learn. Distributing books may seem small, but for many students, it's a step towards continuing their education without obstacles." Local school staff and the parents of the students appreciated the gesture and said that such efforts motivate children to attend school with enthusiasm. The initiative also saw the participation of community members, who praised the



consistency and selflessness of the young leaders. Their act of generosity is being seen as a model of youth-led community service, setting an example for others to contribute to educational support in rural regions.



Police Conduct Civic Action Programme

Essential items like radios, blankets, medicines distributed
Initiative aimed at fostering police-public harmony
CRPF and local police jointly organize community outreach

TPN Correspondent | Chhattisgarh
As part of the Civic Action Programme, a major community outreach was carried out on 16 June 2025 in the interior villages of Potkapalli and Kishtaram in Chhattisgarh. Under this initiative, essential items including radios, blankets, sarees, water tanks, and medicines were distributed to villagers from Sanampenta, Patelpara, Bazaarpara, Palodi, Potkapalli, and Kishtaram. The primary goal of the programme was to promote mutual trust and harmony between the police forces and the local tribal communities, while also creating awareness about various welfare schemes of the government and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The programme encouraged locals to integrate more closely with mainstream society and avail benefits of state and central initiatives. This initiative was conducted under the aegis of the Chhattisgarh Sector, as per the orders of the Konta Range, and was led by Comman-

dant Shri Deepak Kumar Srivastava of the 212 Battalion. At Kishtaram, Assistant Commandants Shri Manoj Kumar Pandey (E/212 Battalion) and Shri Rohit Shukla (D/212 Battalion) took the lead in organizing food and refreshments for the villagers, ensuring active participation and engagement. The event saw enthusiastic response from the local residents, reflecting the growing bond between security forces and the tribal communities in the region. The entire programme was conducted under the supervision of Second Command Officer Shri Dinesh Kumar. Several other officials were present on the occasion, including Inspector/GD Saroj Kumar Sahu, Sub-Inspector/GD Sohan Lal Ilva, and Shri S.K. Pamboi (Town Inspector and Station Head). Authorities hope that such community engagement efforts will go a long way in building trust, improving communication, and strengthening peace and development in the region.

Panchayat Secretary Caught Taking ₹8K Bribe

TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy
In a clear example of ongoing corruption at the grassroots level, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials caught Budhera Gram Panchayat Secretary Pattolla Nagalakshmi red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹8,000 in Munipalli Mandal, Sangareddy district. The incident took place on Monday after a planned trap was laid by the ACB. The bribe demand was reportedly made when a local resident approached the Panchayat office seeking a new house number for an open plot and permission to establish a water servicing center shed.

Secretary Nagalakshmi allegedly demanded ₹8,000 to process the request. The aggrieved citizen, unwilling to comply with the illegal demand, filed a complaint with the Telangana ACB. Acting swiftly, the officials arranged a trap and apprehended the secretary while receiving the bribe money from the complainant. The ACB has once again reminded citizens that bribery has no place in government offices and urged the public to report any such incidents without fear. They assured that details of complainants will be kept confidential.

From 129 Million to 75 Million: Understanding India’s Poverty Recount



India continues to hold the unenviable distinction of having the largest number of poor people in the world, even as it competes with nations like Japan and Germany to become the third-largest economy globally. The World Bank’s latest poverty update has significantly revised India’s poverty numbers, sparking widespread discussion on the accuracy and implications of these figures.

In its 2024 report, the World Bank estimated that India had 129 million people living in extreme poverty, defined as surviving on less than \$2.15 per day (2017 PPP). However, the recent 2025 update drastically lowered this figure to 75.2 million, based on a higher poverty line of \$3 per day (2021 PPP). This sudden drop of nearly 54 million poor

people within a year raises questions about the methodology and assumptions behind these statistics.

The key reason for this revision is the World Bank’s acceptance of India’s new consumption survey conducted in 2022–2023, which replaced the previous 2016–2017 survey deemed unreliable. India’s updated methodology, known as the Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP), significantly reduces reported poverty levels compared to the older Uniform Recall Period (URP) method.

While the government has touted this drop as a major success, the World Bank cautions that the traditional extreme poverty benchmarks of \$2.15 and \$3 per day are not fully applicable to

middle-income countries like India. Instead, a more realistic poverty threshold for such nations is \$6.85 per day (2017 PPP), which accounts for modern essentials like electricity, healthcare, and digital access.

At this higher poverty line, India’s poor population remains staggering—over 1.17 billion people or 82% of its population in 2022. This means India still has the highest absolute number of poor people globally, surpassing even Sub-Saharan Africa. In summary, while India’s extreme poverty figures have been revised downward, broader poverty challenges remain immense, underscoring the complexity of measuring poverty in a rapidly developing nation.

A Decade Later, Telangana’s Battle for Krishna River Water Continues



More than ten years after Telangana split from Andhra Pradesh, the state’s struggle to secure its rightful share of Krishna river water remains unresolved, exposing deep political and administrative challenges.

The Krishna river, flowing through Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, is central to this dispute. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh share two major dams on the river: the Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar projects. The Srisailem dam regulates about 811 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water, with Telangana allocated 299 TMC and Andhra Pradesh receiving the remainder. At Nagarjunasagar, which holds 285 TMC, Telangana’s share is 90 TMC.

Despite clear allocations, Andhra Pradesh has frequently been accused of exceeding its water share, hurting Telangana’s agricultural and developmental prospects. In November

2023, tensions escalated when Andhra Pradesh authorities released over 2,000 cusecs of water from the Nagarjunasagar dam—beyond its entitlement—while Telangana was focused on elections. The incident sparked a police standoff, highlighting the fragile nature of water sharing between the two states.

The Centre established the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) to oversee the equitable distribution of water between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The KRMB, comprising officials from both states and the central government, was expected to settle disputes and ensure compliance with the agreed 66:34 water-sharing ratio. Yet, a decade on, its effectiveness remains limited as disputes persist.

Water issues are deeply intertwined with politics. At Telangana’s formation, the rivalry between Telangana’s first Chief Minister K Chandrashekar

Rao (KCR) and Andhra Pradesh’s then-leader N Chandrababu Naidu added fuel to the dispute. Naidu’s party had to share Hyderabad, the joint capital, with Telangana for ten years after bifurcation, complicating relations.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh continues to advance its own projects, such as the Polavaram irrigation project on the Godavari river, aimed at irrigating millions of acres and supplying drinking water to Visakhapatnam.

With the Congress now in power in Telangana—a party historically opposed to Andhra Pradesh’s TDP—the political divide remains a significant barrier to resolving the water dispute. For a fair and lasting solution, the KRMB must be empowered and allowed to function effectively, ensuring both states receive their rightful share and protecting the interests of millions dependent on the Krishna river.



Is America Still Worth It? Indian Students Begin Looking Elsewhere

For decades, American universities have been the gold standard for Indian students seeking world-class education and global career opportunities. Names like Sundar Pichai, Raghuram Rajan, Indra Nooyi, and Amartya Sen owe a part of their global success to the academic grounding they received in the US. Indian students have not only studied at top American institutions, but also contributed to them through philanthropy and research.

However, that long-standing appeal is now under pressure. The Trump administration’s crackdown on academic institutions—citing antisemitism, “anti-white racism,” and political activism—has created a hostile environment for both universities and international students. Elite campuses like Harvard and Columbia are facing political heat, while US embassies have halted student visa interviews, citing enhanced social media scrutiny. Indian applicants must now disclose years of online activity, leaving many uncertain about what could jeopardize their future.

For Indian families, where sending a child to the US is often a long-term investment, this is more than a policy change — it’s a dream deferred. The US had over 3.3 lakh Indian students in 2023, making them the largest international student group. They contribute significantly to STEM fields and university funding. But the political message is clear: global talent is no longer welcome without conditions.

This has already sparked a shift. A 28% drop in Indian student enrolments is forecast for 2025, with more turning to the UK, Canada, and Australia. These countries may not offer the same prestige, but they aren’t undermining their universities or politicizing student mobility. India, in turn, finds an opportunity in this disruption. With institutions like IITs, IIMs, and emerging private universities like Ashoka, India can become an academic hub—if it invests in research, academic freedom, and global partnerships.

The world may see fewer Indian success stories shaped in America in the coming years. But if India seizes this moment, it could become the new destination for intellectual ambition — not just for Indians, but for global talent disillusioned with America’s shifting values.

Is Airbus Safer Than Boeing? The Truth Behind the Debate



Last week’s crash of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner in Ahmedabad shook the aviation world and reignited fears about Boeing’s safety. For Air India, it was a devastating blow to their brand revival. For Boeing, it reopened painful wounds from the 737 MAX disasters, which severely damaged its reputation due to flawed software and safety shortcuts. But does this mean Airbus is safer?

Globally, Boeing and Airbus dominate the aircraft manufacturing industry, shaping air travel for decades. Between 2013 and 2022, Boeing had 60 accidents and Airbus 50, but Boeing operates more planes. When adjusted for flight numbers, their fatality rates are almost identical. Aviation expert Richard Aboulafia sums it up: statistically, flying on either is equally safe. The plane itself is rarely the problem.

Boeing’s recent troubles are not just technical—they’re moral. The 737 MAX crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, caused by faulty software, revealed a corporate culture prioritizing profits over safety. Airbus hasn’t been perfect either, with incidents like the 2009 Air France A330 crash and a \$4 billion corruption settlement. As one insider put it, “Airbus sins in boardrooms; Boeing sins in cockpits.”

Beyond safety, Boeing and Airbus are geopolitical rivals tied to the US and Europe respectively, fueling trade disputes and lobbying battles. Despite Boeing’s rough decade, including the 737 MAX crisis and other incidents, its 2023 record was strong, with just 11 non-fatal accidents in over 31 million flights.

Flying remains incredibly safe: in 2023, there was one major accident for every 5.3 million flights. Most accidents stem from pilot error, not plane design. Modern aircraft, including Boeing’s Dreamliner and Airbus’s A320, are marvels built with multiple redundancies.

So while emotions flare after crashes, data shows commercial aviation is safer than ever. The choice between Boeing or Airbus is often less about safety and more about perception. In reality, flying any modern aircraft means trusting an industry that’s a technological wonder, despite its flaws.



PM Modi Conferred Cyprus’ Highest Civilian Honour: A Proud Moment for India

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded Cyprus' highest civilian honour, the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, in recognition of his global leadership and diplomatic contributions. This marks the 23rd international honour conferred upon PM Modi, making it a significant milestone in his tenure and a moment of immense pride for India.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has hailed this achievement as a symbol of India's growing stature on the global stage. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav highlighted the award as a testament to

Modi's decisive global influence, saying no previous Indian prime minister has commanded such international respect. He emphasized that this recognition reflects India's emergence as a powerful and respected voice in global affairs.

Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Dharmendra Pradhan, and Kiren Rijiju echoed similar sentiments. Gadkari noted the award symbolizes the strong and enduring ties between India and Cyprus, based on mutual respect and shared values. Pradhan called it a moment of "great pride and joy for India and her people," while Rijiju described Modi as a leader who commands

worldwide admiration.

BJP leaders underscored that the honour reflects the transformation of India's foreign policy under PM Modi—bold, confident, and centered on national interest. "India's diplomacy today is firm, fearless, and focused," the party stated, attributing this shift to Modi's visionary leadership and the trust of 140 crore Indians.

The recognition from Cyprus, the party added, is not just about one leader but represents the rise of a "resurgent Bharat," driven by strategic foresight, economic strength, and global diplomacy.

MK Stalin Renews Demand for Tamil as Official Language in Supreme Court and Madras HC

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has reiterated the demand for Tamil to be recognized as an official language for conducting arguments in the Supreme Court and the Madras High Court. Speaking at a wedding in Thanjavur, Stalin emphasized the cultural and historical significance of Tamil and called for greater support from the judiciary to promote its use in court proceedings.

Recalling the legacy of the Dravidian movement and DMK founder CN Annadurai, Stalin highlighted the 1967 reforms that recognized self-respect marriages—secular unions without religious rituals—as a major milestone for social justice. He also praised the contributions of former Chief Minister Karunanidhi, who secured classical language ("Semmozhi") status for Tamil.

"We are proud to be Tamizhars," Stalin said. "It is time the judiciary recognizes Tamil as a court language. Kalaignar even passed a resolution for this

demand during his tenure." He appealed to the judges present at the event to support the ongoing efforts to include Tamil in judicial proceedings.

Stalin cited recent instances of progress, such as Tamil speeches delivered by Supreme Court Justices R Mahadevan and MM Sundresh, as evidence of growing acceptance of the language in legal spaces. However, he noted that while thousands of court judgments have been translated into Tamil, the language is still not allowed for arguments in court.

According to data shared by Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal in the Rajya Sabha, over 2,500 Supreme Court and nearly 900 Madras High Court judgments had been translated into Tamil as of September 2024. In a broader cultural appeal, Stalin also encouraged young couples to have more children, expressing concern that Tamil Nadu might lose parliamentary representation due to declining population growth.



460 Sprinkler Machines With Smog Guns To Hit Delhi Streets Soon: Rekha Gupta



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
In a major initiative to curb air pollution, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced the deployment of 460 water sprinkler machines integrated with anti-smog guns across the city. This move is part of a comprehensive dust control and cleanliness plan approved by the Cabinet, aimed at improving air quality and reducing pollution-related health risks in the capital.

CM Gupta stated that over 1,000 water sprinklers will operate year-round—excluding the monsoon season—to consistently suppress dust and maintain cleaner streets. Each of Delhi's Assembly constituencies will soon receive advanced air pollution control equipment.

The announcement followed a demonstration at the Delhi Secretariat, showcasing high-tech machines including electric and CNG mechanical road sweeping machines, litter pickers, and water jetting units. The Chief Minister was joined by Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa and senior officials from the Environment Department.

CM Gupta emphasized that air pollution, particularly from road dust, remains a severe threat to public health. "To tackle this, the Delhi government has made special budgetary provisions for advanced street-cleaning machinery," she said.

The plan also includes the deployment of 70 mechanical road sweeping machines, 70 litter picker machines, along with water tankers and dust dump vehicles. All these machines will be outfitted with modern technologies such as GPS tracking, CCTV cameras, AQI (Air Quality Index) monitors, video analytics, mobile app integration, and IoT sensors for real-time monitoring and optimal performance.

A central control room will oversee and coordinate the operations of these machines to ensure they are deployed efficiently and effectively.

"This initiative is a step toward a cleaner, healthier Delhi," said Gupta, underlining the government's commitment to long-term environmental management and sustainable urban living.

India Begins Relocating Citizens in Iran, Considers Exit Routes from Israel Amid Escalating Conflict

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
As tensions escalate between Iran and Israel, the Indian government has begun relocating its citizens in both countries to safer areas, though full-scale evacuations have not yet been initiated. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is closely monitoring the situation, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in regular contact with regional counterparts.

In Iran, the Indian embassy in Tehran has coordinated with local authorities to shift citizens—especially students—from high-risk areas. Buses have begun transporting students from universities such as Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Islamic Azad University, and Iran University of Medical Sciences to safer cities. A similar effort is being prepared for students at Shahid Beheshti University and Urmia University, near Iran's border. Over 7,500 Indian students are currently studying in Iran, and the embassy has urged them to leave Tehran using the arranged transport.

Meanwhile, in Israel, where airspace has

been completely shut down due to daily aerial attacks, Indian citizens are being advised to move toward land border crossings with Jordan and Egypt. Embassy officials in Tel Aviv have conducted Zoom calls, issued advisories, and are guiding citizens—many of whom are recent migrant workers—on exit options. The Indian population in Israel has grown to around 25,000 following a surge in skilled labour recruitment.

India has also coordinated with Armenian authorities to facilitate border crossings from Iran, particularly at Agarak. While routes to Türkiye and Azerbaijan remain technically open, they are less favored due to strained relations following Operation Sindoor.

The Indian embassies in Tehran and Tel Aviv have launched registration drives via Google forms and are maintaining communication with citizens through hotlines and social media. The government continues to assess evacuation needs, emphasizing caution and limited movement.



"He's Enemy Number One": Israeli PM Says Iran Wants To Kill Donald Trump

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has alleged that Iran's Islamic regime actively sought to assassinate former U.S. President Donald Trump, labeling him "enemy number one" due to his aggressive stance against Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Speaking to Fox News, Netanyahu said, "They want to kill him. He's enemy number one. He's a decisive leader who refused to appease Iran." Netanyahu praised Trump's decision to withdraw from the 2015 nuclear agreement and his role in eliminating top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani. "He made it clear — no nuclear weapons for Iran, no uranium enrichment. That kind of clarity is why they fear him," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu also claimed he himself has been targeted, citing a missile strike that narrowly



missed his home and entered through a bedroom window. Referring to Trump as his "junior partner" in confronting Iran's nuclear capabilities, he underscored the personal risks leaders face when standing up to Tehran.

The Israeli Prime Minister described the threat from Iran as

"dual and existential," pointing to Tehran's nuclear enrichment program and rapid buildup of ballistic missile capabilities. "We were facing an imminent threat — atomic bombs with a declared goal of destroying Israel, and 10,000 ballistic missiles in just three years. No country can survive that, especially not one the size of Isra-

el," he said. In response, Israel launched Operation Rising Lion, which Netanyahu described as "one of the greatest military operations in history." The offensive, he claimed, has significantly set back Iran's nuclear and missile development programs. Iran has retaliated with a wave of ballistic missile strikes targeting Israeli cities, though many were intercepted by air defenses.

Netanyahu reiterated that Israel's actions are not only for its own survival but also in defense of global security. "We're protecting the world," he said, criticizing ongoing diplomatic efforts with Iran as fruitless.

Addressing the Iranian people directly, Netanyahu called out the regime for "50 years of oppression" and maintained that Israel will take all necessary steps to neutralize the nuclear and missile threat posed by Tehran.



Iran's Supreme Leader Hiding in Bunker as Israeli Airstrikes Kill Top IRGC Officials

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a dramatic escalation of the regional conflict, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his family have reportedly taken shelter in an underground bunker in northeastern Tehran amid intense Israeli airstrikes, according to The Times of Israel. The strikes follow heightened tensions and retaliatory attacks between the two countries.

Iranian state media confirmed that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) intelligence chief, Brigadier General Mohammad Kazemi, his deputy Hassan Mohaqiq, and a third intelligence officer, Mohsen Bagheri, were killed in the Israeli strike in Tehran.

The strikes mark a significant military operation by Israel, with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) claiming it launched an "extensive" wave of airstrikes targeting Iran's weapons manufacturing infrastructure. The IDF said the offensive focused on facilities linked to the IRGC, its Quds Force, and other armed forces installations. "Numerous weapons production sites across Iran were targeted," the military said in a statement.

Khamenei reportedly relocated to the Lavizan bunker shortly after the strikes began. He had also used the same shelter during Iranian offensives against Israel in April and October 2024. According to Israeli sources cited by The Times of Israel, Israel intentionally refrained from targeting Khamenei directly during the initial phase of its operation, in an apparent bid to give him a final chance to abandon Iran's uranium enrichment efforts.

Meanwhile, the conflict continues to have repercussions inside Israel. Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical service, reported eight injuries following the latest Iranian missile attack. In Haifa, one person was moderately injured and six others sustained light injuries. Another individual was lightly wounded in Kiryat Gat. Additionally, several people were treated for acute anxiety after missile impacts.

The IDF also revealed that Iran launched over 100 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) toward Israel, all of which were successfully intercepted. Amid these developments, Iranian media, quoting IRGC-linked Tasnim News Agency, reported that Iranian forces discovered a secret three-story Israeli drone manufacturing facility operating inside Iran, though the claim remains unverified.

Tensions remain at a boiling point as the region braces for further conflict.



Germany, France, and UK Offer Immediate Nuclear Talks to Iran Amid Middle East Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Germany, France, and the United Kingdom have offered to hold immediate negotiations with Iran regarding its nuclear program in a bid to ease escalating tensions in the Middle East. German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful, currently visiting the region, emphasized the urgency of de-escalating the conflict between Israel and Iran through diplomatic engagement.

Speaking to German broadcaster ARD on Saturday, Wadepful expressed hope that Iran would accept the offer for talks, despite Tehran's previous reluctance to engage constructively. He stressed that resolving concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions is crucial for achieving lasting peace and ensuring the safety of Israel, the wider region, and Europe.

"The conflict will only end when pressure and influence are applied to both Iran and Israel from all sides," Wadepful said during his visit to Oman on Sunday. He added that there is a shared expectation that serious efforts must be made in the coming week to interrupt the ongoing spiral of violence.

When asked if he believed Iran's government might fall amid the crisis, Wadepful stated that he did not think Israel intended to bring down Tehran's administration.

Turning to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Wadepful described the situation as "unacceptable" and called on Israel to allow unrestricted access for aid organizations. He highlighted the severe hunger and suffering of civilians in the enclave and urged an end to their plight.

Wadepful also blamed Hamas for sparking the conflict and insisted that the Islamist group must release hostages it has held since militants launched attacks on Israel in October 2023. The offer by Germany, France, and the UK for renewed nuclear talks signals a push by European powers to bring diplomacy back to the forefront amid a volatile and dangerous regional conflict.

Iran Accuses Israel of Sabotaging Nuclear Talks Amid Rising Conflict

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi accused Israel of deliberately trying to derail ongoing nuclear negotiations with the United States as tensions between the two nations escalated sharply. The comments came after Israel launched deadly strikes on Iranian nuclear and military sites, killing several and sparking retaliatory missile attacks by Iran on Israeli territory.



Araghchi stated that Iran's missile barrages on Israel would cease only if Israel ended its military campaign against Iran. He emphasized that Iran's actions were purely in self-defense and that Tehran did not seek to expand the conflict to neighboring countries unless forced. However, he warned that Israeli strikes on the South Pars gas field—shared by Iran and Qatar—were a dangerous provocation aimed at widening the war beyond Iranian borders.

The foreign minister condemned Israel for crossing

a "new red line" by attacking Iran's nuclear facilities, which he said was a blatant violation of international law. He further accused Israel of sabotaging the sixth round of Iran-US nuclear talks, which had been scheduled for Sunday but were postponed due to the recent escalations. Araghchi insisted that Israel does not want a diplomatic resolution or an agreement on the nuclear issue.

Araghchi also accused the United States of backing Israel's military campaign, claiming Iran has solid evidence that American forces and bases supported Israel's attacks. He

expressed skepticism over U.S. denials and called on Washington to condemn the Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear sites to demonstrate true goodwill.

Finally, the Iranian minister criticized the United Nations Security Council for its perceived indifference toward Israel's attacks. He said Western nations have unfairly condemned Iran instead of Israel, despite Iran being the party whose sovereignty was violated.

The escalating conflict continues to cast a shadow over delicate nuclear negotiations and regional stability.

PM Modi Makes Historic First Visit To Cyprus, Gets Warm Welcome

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a rousing and emotional welcome from the Indian diaspora upon arriving in Cyprus on Sunday, marking the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the Mediterranean island nation. The visit is part of PM Modi's ongoing three-nation diplomatic tour, which also includes Canada and Croatia.

The Prime Minister was greeted with bouquets, chants, and applause by members of the Indian community as he arrived at his hotel in Limassol. Modi warmly interacted with the diaspora, expressing gratitude for their continued support and contributions to strengthening India-Cyprus relations.

PM Modi landed at Larnaca International Airport, where he was received with full ceremonial honors by Cyprus President Nicos Christodoulides and Finance Minister Constantinos Kombos. Calling it a "special gesture," the Prime Minister



took to X (formerly Twitter) to thank the Cypriot leadership and highlight the significance of the visit.

"Landed in Cyprus. My gratitude to President Nikos Christodoulides for the special gesture of welcoming me at the airport. This visit will add significant momentum to India-Cyprus relations, especially in

areas like trade, investment, and more," PM Modi posted.

During his visit, PM Modi is scheduled to hold high-level bilateral talks with President Christodoulides. Key areas on the agenda include boosting cooperation in trade, investment, IT and innovation, renewable energy, defence, shipping, and cultural exchanges. The two leaders

are also expected to discuss maritime security and regional developments, particularly in West Asia.

The visit comes as India and Cyprus mark over six decades of diplomatic relations, established in 1962. Cyprus has been a strong supporter of India's stance on international issues, including Kashmir, and has backed New Delhi at various global forums like the United Nations.

Despite being a small community, the Indian diaspora in Cyprus plays a significant role in education, healthcare, and business. PM Modi is expected to address this community during a special event.

Cyprus, a member of the European Union, is set to assume the EU's rotating presidency in early 2026. PM Modi's visit is seen as part of India's continued diplomatic outreach to Europe.

From Cyprus, Modi will proceed to Canada for the G7 Summit and later travel to Croatia.

Markets Rebound Sharply as Inflation Cools; Sensex Soars 677 Points, Nifty Reclaims 25,000

Domestic stock markets rallied on Monday. They recovered the losses of the last two sessions. Today, benchmark indices gained heavily. Despite the ongoing tensions in West Asia and the war between Iran and Israel, the indices started with a huge gap-up. They gradually recovered. Wholesale price inflation fell to a 14-month low and the country's economy remained strong. Dollar inflow also contributed to this. Nifty again reached the 21-day EMA and 25000 level. IT and CPSE shares rose. Overall, Nifty gained 227 points and Sensex gained 677 points.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,118 in the previous session, opened at 81,034 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 81,012. It reached an intraday high of 81,865. It finally closed at 81,796 with a gain of 677 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,732, reached a low of 24,703 and a high of 24,967. It rose by 227 points in total and closed at 24,946. The Nifty Bank rose by 417 points and settled at 55,944.

In the Nifty50, 46 companies gained while 4 lost. BEL, HDFC Life, UltraTech SEM, Tech Mahindra were the top gainers. Tata Motors, Dr. Reddy's, Sun Pharma, Adani Ports, Jio Finance were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices were mixed today. IT, CPSE, Realty, Oil, Commodities, Infra, Metal, PSE, Private Bank, Finance, FMCG indices rose more.

Market breadth turned in favor of



buyers on NSE today. Out of 3021 stocks traded, 1483 gained and 1448 lost. 66 shares touched their 52-week high and 27 shares touched their 52-week low. 85 shares reached the upper circuit and 80 shares reached the lower circuit.

Oswal Pumps IPO received a response of 1.32 times on the second day in the afternoon. The rupee strengthened further against the dollar and settled at 86.06. Kotak Institutional has given a sell rating to NMDC with a target price of Rs.55. Jefferies maintains buy rating on Max Finance with a target price of Rs 1830. InterGlobe Aviation has been given a buy rating at Rs 6300. 44 lakh shares changed hands in two block deals in ONGC. HDFC Bank shares can rally by 23% from the current price, Jefferies said. Biocon plans to raise Rs 4500 crore through QIP. Omaxe shares rose 13% after acquiring 260 acres to develop a new township in Amritsar. Capri Global Capital raised Rs 2000 crore by issuing shares to QIBs. Wholesale price inflation in May fell to a 14-month low of 0.39%.

Cipla

Q4 FY25 Performance: Cipla reported a strong Q4 FY25, with net profit rising 30% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹1,222 crore. Revenue from operations increased by 8.45% YoY to ₹6,597.72 crore. Cipla has generally outperformed sector averages in profitability, supported by efficient cost controls and segment expansion. However, some brokerages like InCred Equities have recently turned selective, exiting Cipla from their high-conviction list due to “near-term margin pressure stemming from its product mix.” Despite this, analysts largely maintain a “Buy” rating on the stock with target prices ranging from ₹1700 to ₹1830.



Voltas

Voltas saw its total income for Q4 FY25 rise by 14% to ₹4,847 crore compared to the previous



year. The company's EBITDA surged by 74.6% to ₹332.8 crore, and the operating margin improved to 7% from 4.5% a year ago, though slightly below expectations. Voltas closed flat on a weekly basis (as of June 13, 2025). Technically, the stock faces immediate support at ₹1,250.13 and immediate resistance at ₹1,316.13. A close below the support could lead to a sharp breakdown, while a close above resistance could indicate a sharp breakout. The trading range for the week of June 16-20, 2025, is projected between ₹1,184.13 and ₹1,382.13.

HCLTech

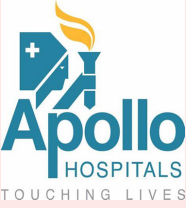
HCLTech reported an 8% year-on-year (YoY) increase in consolidated net profit to ₹4,307 crore for Q4 FY25. HCLTech also reported strong new bookings of \$3 billion in the quarter, driven by AI propositions. HCLTech's CEO & MD expressed confidence in the company's growth outlook despite global headwinds, anticipating strong opportunities. Recent news indicates a partnership with UiPath to drive AI automation and an expanded partnership with Volvo Cars for engineering services. Technical charts suggest that IT stocks, including HCLTech, might face further losses in the near term.



Apollo Hospitals

Q4 FY25 Performance: Apollo Hospitals delivered strong performance is attributed to leadership in healthcare services, growth in digital platforms, focused execution, and cost optimization. The healthcare sector in India is experiencing rising demand, ben-

efiting large hospital chains like Apollo from operating leverage, digital health integration, and increasing patient volumes. Apollo Hospitals plans to continue building on its integrated care ecosystem (hospitals, diagnostics, pharmacies, and digital engagement through Apollo 24/7) to drive future profitability. Ongoing investments in specialty care, regional expansion, and technology adoption are key pillars of its FY26 strategy. Brokerages like Citi and Goldman Sachs have maintained “Buy” ratings with price targets of ₹8,260 and ₹7,850, respectively.



KPIT Technologies



KPIT Technologies reported strong Q4 FY25 results, with net profit growing by 41.2% YoY and meeting its increased EBITDA outlook of 21%. Revenues stood at \$177 million with constant currency growth of 15% YoY. KPIT Technologies is confident in its future growth trajectory, driven by its strong focus on the mobility sector, consistent leadership among passenger car OEMs, deepening relationships with commercial vehicle players, and expansion in China and India. The company has made investments in leadership training, mobility-specific AI solutions, automation, platforms, tools & accelerators, and new markets. Strong deal wins and potential acquisitions of specialized companies are expected to contribute to medium-term growth.

India's Exports Rise 2.8% in May; Trade Deficit Narrows to \$6.6 Billion

India's export performance showed positive momentum in May 2025, with combined merchandise and services exports reaching \$71.12 billion, a 2.77% year-on-year increase, according to data from the Union Commerce Ministry released on June 16. In May 2024, the total exports stood at \$69.20 billion.



While merchandise exports dipped slightly from \$39.59 billion in May 2024 to \$38.73 billion in May 2025, services exports surged from \$29.61 billion to \$32.39 billion during the same period — an encouraging sign of India's growing strength in its services sector.

On the import side, India brought in goods and services worth \$77.75 billion, marginally lower than \$78.55 billion in May last year. This helped narrow the trade deficit for the month to \$6.62 billion, down from \$9.35 billion a year earlier — signaling a healthier trade balance.

For the fiscal year so far (April–May 2025), total exports stood at \$142.43 billion, marking a 5.75% increase year-on-year. Imports during the same period also grew, rising 6.52% from \$149.81 billion to \$157.57 billion. This brought the two-month trade deficit to \$17.14 billion, compared to \$15.12 billion during the same period in 2024.

India's exports for the full fiscal year 2024–25 had already hit an all-time high of \$824.9 billion, surpassing the government's target of \$800 billion. This reflected a 6.01% growth from \$778.1 billion in 2023–24. Of this, services exports contributed \$387.5 billion, a 13.6% jump, while merchandise exports rose marginally to \$437.42 billion.

Despite the record export numbers, India's total trade deficit widened to \$94.26 billion in 2024–25, up from \$78.1 billion the previous year.

Government initiatives, particularly the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, appear to be supporting export growth across sectors like electronics, helping boost global competitiveness and attract foreign investment.

Interestingly, market sentiment is optimistic — prediction market platform Probo currently places a 45% probability on India reaching \$950 billion in exports in FY 2025–26, signaling strong expectations from the trade and investment community.

SBI Slashes Lending and Deposit Rates After RBI's 50-Basis Point Rate Cut

Following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) surprise 50-basis point policy rate cut on June 6, the State Bank of India (SBI) — the country's largest lender — has reduced its lending and deposit rates, bringing welcome relief to borrowers.

With effect from June 15, 2025, SBI's Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) has been slashed by 50 basis points to 7.75%, while its External Benchmark Based Lending Rate (EBLR) has also been reduced by the same margin — from 8.65% to 8.15%. This move will result in cheaper loans for both new and existing customers across segments like housing, auto, and personal finance.

The reduction comes as a direct response to the RBI's recent monetary policy decision, where the benchmark repo rate was lowered from 6% to 5.5%. The decision, supported by five out of six members of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), aims to revive eco-



nomical growth, which has fallen to a four-year low of 6.5% in FY25.

Additionally, the RBI cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points to 3%, injecting an estimated ₹2.5 lakh crore into the banking system, increasing liquidity ahead of the year-end.

In tandem with lending rate cuts, SBI also revised its fixed deposit (FD) rates

downward by 25 basis points across various maturities for deposits up to ₹3 crore. For example:

1–2 year FDs now earn 6.50% (down from 6.75%),
2–3 year FDs fetch 6.45% (down from 6.70%),
3–5 year FDs offer 6.30%,
5–10 year FDs drop to 6.05%.

SBI's special 'Amrit Vrishti' 444-day scheme has also seen its rate reduced from 6.85% to 6.60%.

Senior citizens continue to receive an additional 50 basis points, while super senior citizens (above 80 years) enjoy a 60 basis point premium over standard rates.

More banks are expected to follow SBI's lead in revising their rates, as the impact of the RBI's monetary easing ripples through the financial system.

Vehicle Sales Mixed in May: Passenger Vehicle Wholesales Dip Slightly, Two-Wheelers Up

India's automobile sector witnessed mixed performance in May 2025, with passenger vehicle wholesales registering a slight dip, while two-wheeler dispatches saw modest growth, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). Domestic passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales — which include cars, utility vehicles, and vans — stood at 3,44,656 units, marginally down by 0.8% compared to 3,47,492 units in May 2024. The dip, though not sharp, reflects sluggish consumer sentiment, supply-side constraints, and a possible delay in purchase decisions amid expectations of upcoming new model launches and discounts.

In contrast, two-wheeler sales in the domestic market showed signs of recovery. Dispatches from manufacturers to dealerships rose 2.2%, reaching 16,55,927 units in May 2025, compared to



16,20,084 units in the same month last year. The increase is attributed to strong rural demand, easing input costs, and higher mobility needs driven by schools and offices reopening at full scale. However, three-wheeler sales — a critical segment for last-mile transport — declined 3.3%, dropping to 53,942 units from 55,763 units a year earlier. Indus-

try analysts point to elevated fuel prices, tighter financing conditions, and increased competition from electric three-wheelers as contributing factors behind the slowdown. Despite the mixed trend across vehicle categories, overall vehicle wholesales across all segments rose by 1.8%, reaching 20,12,969 units in May 2025, compared to 19,76,674 units in May 2024. This slight uptick suggests a gradual recovery in the broader automotive sector, though growth remains uneven. SIAM officials noted that while the domestic auto industry continues to navigate challenges such as fluctuating raw material prices, inflationary pressures, and global supply chain disruptions, the medium-term outlook remains cautiously optimistic — especially with expectations of policy support, better monsoon prospects, and festive season demand in the coming quarters.



Father’s Day Cake Listed for Rs 5 Lakh Sparks Internet Frenzy: Glitch or Gourmet?

A Father’s Day surprise turned into an online sensation when a food delivery platform seemingly priced a 500-gram Hazelnut Chocolate Cake at an eye-watering Rs 5 lakh. The now-viral screenshot, which made rounds on social media platforms like X (formerly Twitter) and Reddit, left users stunned and amused. While most cakes on the same page were priced normally—such as a Butterscotch Cake at Rs 400 and a Red Velvet Cake at Rs 599—the Hazelnut Chocolate Cake stood out for its absurd cost. Many netizens believe the pricing was either a typo or a technical glitch, but that didn’t stop a flurry of hilarious online reactions. One user joked, “Do not complain. At least they gave you 40% off!” Another quipped, “For Rs 5 lakh, I could buy an entire bakery in my village!” Social

media was flooded with comparisons—ranging from buying iPhones to starting a business—instead of splurging on one small dessert. Some users rationalized it as a clear system error, while others couldn’t help but poke fun at the situation, even pointing out that the delivery charge listed alongside was Rs 8000+. The listing has since become a humorous case study in e-commerce mishaps, reminding users and developers alike how a simple error can take the internet by storm. Whether it was a test item, a backend mistake, or someone having a bit of fun, the Rs 5 lakh cake has certainly earned its moment of viral fame—just not for its flavor. As Father’s Day approaches, this odd pricing saga proves once again that the internet never misses a crumb of absurdity.

Meta Sues Developer Behind AI ‘Nudify’ Apps Amid Surge in Misuse



Meta has taken legal action against Joy Timeline HK Limited, a Hong Kong-based company behind AI-powered “nudify” apps, in a bid to halt the spread of unethical content generated using artificial intelligence. These apps are designed to create fake, sexually explicit images of individuals—often without their knowledge or consent—by digitally removing clothing from photos.

The lawsuit, filed by Meta, is part of the company’s broader campaign to combat the abuse of generative AI, particularly tools that violate privacy and promote harmful or exploitative behavior. Meta stated that Joy Timeline’s CrushAI app and others like it were using its platforms—Facebook and Instagram—to advertise such services, which directly violate Meta’s community standards and advertising policies.

In its complaint, Meta accuses the company of leveraging deceptive practices and targeting users through misleading advertisements, posing significant risks to individuals’ privacy and dignity. The tech giant emphasized

that it is not only removing the offending content and ads but also pursuing legal action to set a precedent for responsible AI usage.

The rise of nudify apps has sparked growing concern worldwide, with AI-generated deepfake content becoming increasingly realistic and accessible. Lawmakers and tech leaders have voiced alarm about the psychological and reputational damage caused by such tools, especially when used to target women and minors.

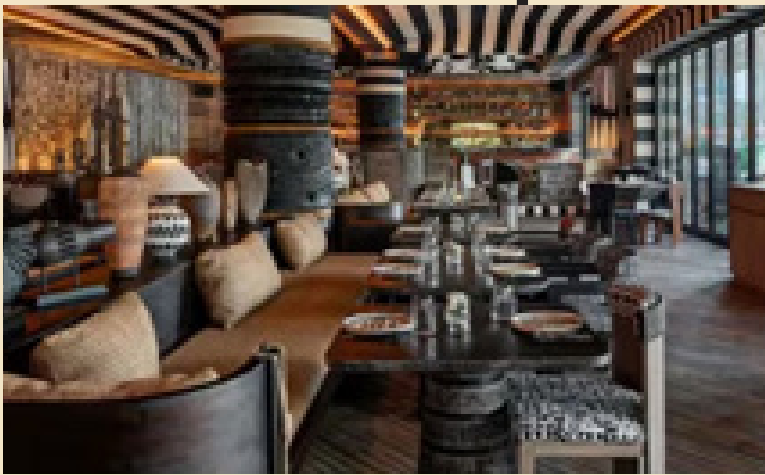
Meta’s move reflects an increasing urgency among major platforms to implement stronger safeguards against AI misuse. The company also called for collaboration across the tech industry to combat the harmful use of generative technologies and to hold developers accountable.

This lawsuit may mark a turning point in how companies approach the legal and ethical responsibilities surrounding AI, as the lines between innovation and exploitation continue to blur.

Believe It or Not: This French Restaurant Charges ₹1,500 Fine for No-Shows and Surprise Guests

A French restaurant’s strict new policy is stirring debate online after the owner announced fines for customers who don’t show up as expected. L’îlot, a cozy 20-seat restaurant in Amboise, is run by chef and owner Olivier Vincent, who recently introduced a ₹1,500 (15 euros) fine for any guest who arrives with a different number of people than stated in their reservation.

Vincent explained that this policy came about due to repeated frustrations caused by no-shows and unexpected extra guests turning up without prior notice. Such changes disrupt the restaurant’s smooth operation, seating arrangements, and food preparation, which are all carefully planned for each reservation.



In a Facebook post, Olivier Vincent made it clear that any change in party size without warning would result in a fine of €15 per missing or extra person. His caption read simply: “Without warning obviously.....”

Despite this strict stance, L’îlot enjoys an impressive

4.7-star rating on Google, reflecting the high quality of its dining experience and the respect many customers have for the restaurant.

The fine aims to encourage responsibility and better communication from diners, helping the small restaurant avoid last-minute disruptions and losses. It also re-

flects a growing trend among popular eateries worldwide that face similar challenges with no-shows and unpredictable guest numbers.

While some patrons have supported the decision as fair and necessary, others have criticized it as too harsh. Still, Vincent remains firm, emphasizing that the policy ensures the restaurant can continue to provide excellent service to all guests without the stress of unexpected changes.

In a world where dining spots are in high demand, especially intimate ones like L’îlot, clear communication and respect for bookings have become essential — and this French chef is making sure his guests understand that.

What Is the ‘Pizza Index’ Theory, and Why It’s Trending After Israel’s Strikes on Iran

As global attention turns to the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, an unusual theory known as the “Pizza Index” is once again making waves on social media. The theory proposes a strange yet intriguing connection: a spike in pizza orders near the Pentagon could indicate an impending military action or global crisis.

The theory gained renewed attention after reports emerged that pizza orders from three restaurants near the U.S. Department of Defense in Washington, D.C., saw a sudden surge just before Israel launched airstrikes on Iran. The information was shared by a popular X (formerly Twitter) account called Pentagon Pizza Report, which has been tracking unusual food delivery patterns around the Pentagon.

The idea behind the Pizza Index is simple: when major decisions or operations are underway, staff and analysts working late at defense-related offices tend to order food—often pizza. Therefore, a noticeable uptick in orders could hint at high-level activity or imminent action.

While this theory might sound far-fetched, it’s not entirely new. Similar trends were



observed before past international military operations, though the data has always been anecdotal and never officially confirmed.

The recent spike in deliveries before Israel’s reported airstrikes has led to a flurry of speculation and memes online. While some treat it as a humorous conspiracy theory, others view it as a quirky but possibly insightful indicator of military

movement.

In a world increasingly driven by open-source intelligence and unconventional data tracking, the Pizza Index adds an unexpected slice of speculation to the way we interpret geopolitical signals. Whether coincidence or pattern, it’s once again caught the internet’s attention in a big way.

Air India Crash: Netizens Spot Possible RAT Deployment as Investigation Probes What Went Wrong

The tragic crash of Air India Flight AI171, en route from Ahmedabad to London, has left the world in mourning after all 241 passengers on board were confirmed dead. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner went down shortly after takeoff, marking the first fatal accident involving this aircraft model and triggering an urgent investigation into what caused the disaster.

While authorities continue to examine the aircraft’s black box, theories are swirling online as netizens and experts alike analyze video footage of the crash. A prominent theory gaining traction involves the suspected deployment of the RAT (Ram Air Turbine) — a small emergency turbine that activates automatically in case of critical system failures.

A YouTube analysis by Captain Steve Scheibner, a former US Navy pilot and aviation analyst, has fueled the RAT theory. Initially skeptical of an engine failure due to the absence of smoke, fire, or sparks, Scheibner revised his stance after reviewing new visual and audio cues from crash footage.

On the Boeing 787, the RAT deploys in three extreme situations: electrical system failure, hydraulic system failure, or dual



engine failure. Scheibner now strongly leans toward the dual engine failure theory, stating, “The RAT’s presence points to a catastrophic systems breakdown — most likely both engines failed.”

He also previously considered other possibilities, including fuel contamination, bird strike, or incorrect flap settings, but now cites multiple indicators that suggest a more serious emergency took place.

As social media debates intensify, officials urge patience, emphasizing that the final cause will only be determined through black box data and a detailed technical investigation. Meanwhile, Air India and aviation authorities have yet to officially comment on the RAT theory.

The crash has sparked renewed focus on air safety, and the world waits for clarity on what went wrong aboard Flight AI171.

West Indies Crush Ireland by 62 Runs, Seal T20 Series with Record-Breaking Batting Display

The West Indies delivered a dominant performance to defeat Ireland by 62 runs in the third and final T20I at Breda Cricket Club, clinching the rain-affected three-match series 1-0. The first two games were abandoned due to bad weather, making this decisive clash the only completed match of the series.



Batting first after being sent in, the West Indies posted a massive 256-5, marking their second-highest total in T20 internationals. The innings was led by an explosive 122-run opening partnership between Evin Lewis, who smashed 91 off 44 balls, and captain Shai Hope, who contributed 51 off 27.

The team hit a staggering 20 sixes — Lewis accounted for eight of them, while Hope and Keacy Carty added four each. Carty remained unbeaten on 49 off just 22 deliveries, capping off a ferocious batting effort that left Ireland chasing a mountain.

In response, Ireland managed a respectable 194-7, but never quite kept up with the required run rate.

Openers Ross Adair (48 off 36) and Harry Tector (38 off 25) built a solid foundation, guiding Ireland to 114-1, but a quick collapse saw them slide to 116-4 in just 12 overs, effectively ending their chase.

Reflecting on the win, Hope said, “Nice to take something back to the Caribbean,” following a disappointing 3-0 series loss to England earlier in both ODIs and T20s. The West Indies had previously drawn the ODI series against Ireland 1-1 in May.

The Caribbean side now prepares to host Australia for a three-match Test series beginning June 25 in Barbados, followed by a five-match T20 series. Australia will arrive fresh from their recent defeat to South Africa in the World Test Championship final in London.

Tatjana Maria, 37, Wins Queen’s Club Final to Claim First WTA 500 Title

In a stunning display of resilience and experience, 37-year-old German qualifier Tatjana Maria captured the biggest title of her career by winning the WTA 500 Queen’s Club final in London. Maria defeated eighth-seeded Amanda Anisimova of the United States with a commanding 6-3, 6-4 victory on grass, just weeks ahead of Wimbledon.



With this triumph, Maria — a mother of two and currently ranked No. 86 in the world — not only secured her first WTA 500 title, but also became the oldest WTA singles champion since Serena Williams won the Auckland Classic in 2020 at age 38.

Celebrating her win with her daughters, Charlotte and Cecilia, and her husband-coach Charles-Edouard Maria, the emotional champion proudly declared, “I’m the Queen of Queen’s.” She added, “It means a lot to me. I’m a good example that even at my age, you can still win big trophies. I’m super proud of myself.”

Maria’s journey to the title was nothing short of remarkable. En route to the final, she defeated four top-20 players, including

Karolina Muchova, Elena Rybakina, and Madison Keys, showcasing her grit and grass-court expertise.

This marks Maria’s fourth WTA title overall, having previously claimed titles on grass in Mallorca (2018) and back-to-back victories on clay in Bogota (2022 and 2023). A former Wimbledon semifinalist, Maria is known for her unique playing style and tenacity, making her a fan favorite, especially on grass courts.

With this victory, Tatjana Maria will soar to World No. 43 in the updated rankings on Monday, just in time for another potential deep run at Wimbledon 2025.

India vs Pakistan Set for Explosive Showdown in Women’s ODI World Cup on October 5 in Colombo

A high-voltage encounter awaits cricket fans as India is set to take on arch-rival Pakistan in the Women’s ODI World Cup on October 5 at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The tournament, jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka, will begin on September 30, featuring eight top teams battling for the coveted title.



The opening match will see hosts India face Sri Lanka at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, while defending champions Australia kick off their campaign on October 1 in Indore against New Zealand.

Due to the ongoing political tensions between India and Pakistan, the Pa-

kistan women’s team will play all their matches in Colombo under a hybrid model agreed upon by the BCCI and PCB. Pakistan’s campaign begins on October 2 against Bangladesh, followed by key fixtures against England, New Zealand, South Africa, and Sri Lanka — all in Colombo.

Meanwhile, India will play most of its matches across Bengaluru, Guwahati, and Visakhapatnam, including a much-anticipated clash with Bangladesh on October 26 in Bengaluru.

England will face Australia in a fiery rematch of the previous final on October 22 in Indore, while also meeting South Africa, Sri Lanka, and New Zea-

land in the group stage.

The tournament runs through November 2, with semi-finals scheduled for October 29 and 30 in Guwahati/Colombo and Bengaluru, respectively. The final will be held in either Colombo or Bengaluru, depending on which teams make it through — especially if Pakistan qualifies, as it will influence the choice of neutral venues.

Eight teams — India, Pakistan, Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh — will compete across five venues, promising an action-packed tournament with fierce rivalries and unforgettable cricketing moments.

PSG Dominate Atletico Madrid 4-0; Bayern Munich Thrash Auckland City 10-0 in FIFA Club World Cup Opener

Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich announced their intentions loud and clear in the opening matches of the FIFA Club World Cup on Sunday. PSG showcased their attacking brilliance with a commanding 4-0 victory over Atletico Madrid at the iconic Rose Bowl in Pasadena, while Bayern Munich crushed New Zealand’s Auckland City 10-0 in Cincinnati.



PSG, fresh off their Champions League triumph, wasted no time asserting dominance despite the sweltering 31°C heat. Goals from Fabian Ruiz and Vitinha in the first half set the tone, and late strikes from Senny Mayulu and Lee Kang-In sealed a comprehensive win against an Atletico side unable to match their multi-dimensional offense. PSG coach Luis Enrique praised his team’s hunger and ambition, emphasizing their goal to continue winning on the global stage.

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich put on a goal-scoring clinic against Auckland City, an amateur side making a Cinderella run in the tournament. Jamal Musiala stole the show with a second-half hat-trick after coming off the bench. Kingsley Coman, Michael Olise, and Thomas Mueller each scored twice, while Sacha Boey added another goal, pushing Bayern’s tally to a staggering 10-0. Coach Vincent Kompany highlighted the importance of starting strong but acknowledged tougher challenges lie ahead against Boca Ju-

niors and Benfica.

Auckland’s interim coach Ivan Vicelich expressed pride in his players for stepping up against one of football’s giants, despite the heavy defeat.

Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone refused to blame the defeat on the heat, admitting PSG’s superior quality was the key factor.

The tournament continues with Palmeiras and Porto playing to a goalless draw in Group A, while Botafogo will take on Seattle Sounders in Group B later.

PSG and Bayern’s emphatic wins mark a thrilling start to the inaugural 32-team FIFA Club World Cup.

Lionel Messi Kicks Off Historic 32-Team Club World Cup in Miami

The much-anticipated first edition of FIFA’s expanded 32-team Club World Cup began in grand style on Saturday, as Lionel Messi led Inter Miami against Egypt’s Al Ahly at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. The opening clash marked the beginning of a new era for the tournament, now modeled after the FIFA World Cup and featuring top clubs from every continent.



Despite initial concerns over attendance, the 64,000-seat venue — home to the NFL’s Miami Dolphins — was nearly full at kickoff. Fans arrived in droves, especially supporters of Al Ahly, the most successful club in African football history with 12 CAF Champions League titles and 45 Egyptian league championships. Their vibrant energy and early arrival created a festive atmosphere for the tournament opener.

Security measures were noticeably tighter this year, following chaotic scenes during last year’s Copa America final between Argentina and Colombia at the same venue. This time, organizers implemented a well-structured filter system for ticket and security checks, positioned far from the stadium’s perimeter. As a result, the matchday experience remained smooth and safe, with no major issues reported.

This inaugural edition of the revamped Club World Cup marks FIFA’s most ambitious attempt yet to globalize club competition. The tournament features 32 teams from across the globe, with clubs representing every confederation. Over the coming weeks, matches will be held at various venues across the United States, culminating in the final at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on July 13.

For Inter Miami, the spotlight remains on Messi, whose presence adds global allure to the event. As the tournament unfolds, fans can expect a celebration of world-class football — one that began with the roar of thousands in Miami and a global icon leading the charge.



The Raja Saab Teaser: Prabhas Shines in a Spooky, Stylish Spectacle Packed with Thrills and Laughs

The wait is finally over for fans of Prabhas, as the teaser of his upcoming film *The Raja Saab* has been officially unveiled — and it's everything fans hoped for and more. With a runtime of 2 minutes and 28 seconds, the teaser blends horror, humor, and vintage charm into a gripping cinematic experience.

The teaser kicks off with Sanjay Dutt, portraying a mysterious and powerful figure determined to enjoy the riches of his ancestral fort — even in the afterlife. Enter Prabhas in a classic lover-boy avatar, exuding old-school charisma with a modern twist. He's seen living the high life until he stumbles upon a seemingly abandoned, yet treasure-laden fort.

Convinced he's found the jackpot, Prabhas and his gang set off on an adventurous hunt, only to discover that the fort hides dark supernatural secrets. Sanjay Dutt reappears — this time



as a menacing ghost — fiercely protecting his haunted domain. The teaser offers glimpses of crocodile-infested waters, demonic creatures, eerie giant claws, and a maze of deadly traps, setting the tone for a high-stakes horror comedy.

What sets *The Raja Saab* apart is its stylized vintage aesthetics and Prabhas's refreshing screen presence, which adds a fun, nostalgic layer to the thriller. The background score by Thaman perfectly balances eerie undertones with energetic beats, adding depth to every frame.

Produced by People Media Factory on a grand scale, *The Raja Saab* promises to be a mass entertainer that blends thrills, chills, and laughs in just the right proportions. With a global release set for December 5, 2025, in multiple languages, the film is already shaping up to be one of the year's most awaited blockbusters.

Keerthy Suresh & Suhas's Uppu Kappurambu Skips Theatres, Set for Direct OTT Release



Star actress Keerthy Suresh and talented actor Suhas are teaming up for a quirky rural comedy-drama titled *Uppu Kappurambu*. Directed by Ani Sasi, known for the heartfelt film *Ninnila Ninnila*, this upcoming entertainer is skipping theatrical release and will premiere directly on Amazon Prime Video.

Slated for a July 4, 2025 release, the film will stream in five languages — Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi — as part of Amazon's growing catalog of original regional content.

Uppu Kappurambu is produced by Radhika Lavu under the Ellenar Films banner. Set against the unique backdrop of a cemetery, the movie promises a blend of comedy, emotion, and rural charm. The official first-look poster was unveiled today, generating buzz across social media. Fans were especially excited to see Keerthy back in Telugu cinema after nearly two years.

Though both Keerthy and Suhas are widely admired for their award-winning performances, the decision to forgo a theatrical release surprised some fans. Given the film's promising theme and star appeal, many believe it could have benefited from at least a limited theatrical run before heading to OTT.

This project marks a crucial return for Keerthy Suresh, whose recent releases haven't lived up to expectations. Audiences are eager to see if *Uppu Kappurambu* can mark a strong comeback for her.

The film's music is composed by Sweekar Agasthi and Rajesh Murugesan, while Sreejith Sarang handles the editing. With the teaser and trailer expected to drop soon, *Uppu Kappurambu* is shaping up to be a light-hearted, emotionally rich film with wide appeal across audiences.

Manchu Lakshmi Faces Backlash Over Controversial Scenes and Mythology Blunder

Actress and TV personality Manchu Lakshmi, daughter of veteran actor Mohan Babu, has found herself at the center of a social media storm. Known for her bold choices and dynamic career — from hosting shows to acting in diverse roles — Lakshmi is now facing severe criticism for two separate controversies that have recently resurfaced.

The first concerns her role in the Malayalam suspense thriller *Monster*, starring Mohanlal. In the film, Manchu Lakshmi and actress Honey Rose portray lesbian characters. A lip-lock scene between the two actresses in the film's climax has reignited online attention, with clips going viral once again. Some critics, especially from conservative circles, have accused Lakshmi of



“damaging the dignity of Telugu culture” due to her bold portrayal. Despite the movie being part of her artistic journey, the backlash suggests lingering discomfort over LGBTQ+ representation in mainstream Indian cinema.

Adding fuel to the fire, Lakshmi

recently appeared on the Indian version of the reality show *The Traitors*, hosted and produced by Karan Johar. In a widely circulated clip from the show, she was involved in an argument where she confused details from Indian epics, mistakenly attributing a Mahabharata event to

the Ramayana. Specifically, she claimed Lord Rama shot a fish in the water after looking into it — a tale not found in the Ramayana but often linked to Arjuna in the Mahabharata.

This slip has drawn sharp criticism from both North Indian and Telugu audiences. While North Indian viewers questioned her knowledge of mythology, Telugu netizens expressed embarrassment, with many accusing her of misrepresenting cultural icons and making uninformed statements on national platforms.

As debates rage on, Manchu Lakshmi remains silent, but the controversies continue to spark online outrage and introspection over public figures' responsibility in media representation.

Dulquer Salmaan's Period Drama Kaantha Set for August 1 Release

Mollywood heartthrob Dulquer Salmaan, known for his versatile roles across Indian cinema, is gearing up for his next major release — *Kaantha*, a period drama filmed as a Tamil-Telugu bilingual. The film has generated considerable buzz, not just because of Dulquer's involvement in front of the camera, but also behind the scenes, as he co-produces the project alongside Telugu star Rana Daggubati.



According to fresh industry reports, the makers have finalized August 1, 2025, as the official release date for *Kaantha*. While no formal announcement has been made yet, sources close to the production confirm that the team is preparing for a wide theatrical release and that promotional activities will intensify in the coming weeks. Directed by Selvamani Selvaraj, *Kaantha* is set in a historical backdrop, promising an intense narrative woven with rich visuals and powerful performances. Dulquer, who has repeatedly proven his mettle in period films and multilingual projects, is expected to portray a layered character in this high-stakes drama. Adding further depth to the cast is Bhagyashri Borse, who plays the female lead. Her pairing with Dulquer is being touted as fresh and promising. Veteran actor Samuthirakani will also be seen in a pivotal role, expected to bring gravitas to the storyline. The film's technical crew adds

to its appeal. Music is composed by Jhanu, with expectations of a rousing soundtrack that complements the film's period setting. Acclaimed cinematographer Dani Sanchez-Lopez, who has previously worked on visually arresting films, is in charge of the visuals, ensuring *Kaantha* will be a treat for the eyes. With the Tamil and Telugu film industries increasingly intersecting, *Kaantha* represents a collaborative effort that bridges regional boundaries. For Dulquer Salmaan fans — especially those in the Telugu states — this release is highly anticipated. With its mix of historical intrigue, strong cast, and technical finesse, *Kaantha* could emerge as one of the most talked-about films of the season. Keep an eye out for the official release announcement and teaser drop in the days to come.

“Thammudu” Gears Up for Musical Launch with First Single ‘Bhuu Antu Bhuutham’



The excitement around Nithiin's upcoming film *Thammudu* continues to build as the makers gear up to release the first single from the film's soundtrack. Titled *Bhuu Antu Bhuutham*, the track is scheduled to drop on June 17, 2025, at 5 PM, marking the beginning of the film's musical promotions.

Directed by Venu Sriram and slated for a theatrical release on July 4, 2025, *Thammudu* stars Nithiin in a lead role, alongside Kantara fame Sapthami Gowda, who plays the female lead. The film has already garnered significant attention thanks to its gripping trailer, which hinted at an emotionally rich and action-packed storyline. Now, with *Bhuu Antu Bhuutham* set to be unveiled, expectations are high for the soundtrack, especially with acclaimed composer Ajaneesh Loknath onboard. Known for his ability to blend emotion and energy through music, Ajaneesh's score is an-

anticipated to play a crucial role in enhancing the film's overall impact. Produced by Dil Raju and Shirish under the prestigious Sri Venkateswara Creations banner, *Thammudu* also features a strong supporting cast that includes Laya, Swasika, Varsha Bollamma, and Saurabh Sachdeva. Each character is expected to bring depth and variety to the narrative, which appears to focus on family dynamics, personal transformation, and resilience.

As the release date approaches, the team is set to intensify promotional efforts, with music being a key driver of pre-release buzz. The launch of the first single is likely to give fans a taste of the film's emotional tone and musical richness. With its intriguing storyline, strong cast, and promising soundtrack, *Thammudu* is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu releases of the year.